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ones for Scotch, which, like beer, is a national beverage. It would seem to me a mistaken principle to have the American Embassy the only one out of about a hundred missions in London plead economy in this respect. Whisky, wine, even champagne flow like water at all receptions, lunches and dinners given even by the most minor of my colleagues, some, no doubt, deviously paid for out of American aid funds.

We had a cable today from the newly elected Ted Kennedys about renting the Georgetown house. Since it would have to be entirely repainted, before it would be habitable for them we [redacted] decline the proposal, as we recently did in the case of the Hugh Auchinclosses. If I take leave at Christmas we may try to put it in order for a future tenant, though even this may be foolish since I do not know how long we will remain abroad. In the past, I have found little profit from house rental, after paying income taxes, and shelling out large sums for the repair of damaged furniture.

NSC 6-17-81

December 18, 1962 - Sunday

Windy, cold (38°), rainy.

Sat for an hour to Robert Lutyens this morning. He told me amusing stories about his famous father, whom he adored.

More reading, including Cousin Natalie Barney's Adventures de l'Esprit and Eparpillements. What an extraordinary and sympathetic woman she is. Most of the great French, and many British and foreign, literary figures of the 20th Century seem to have, at one time or another, frequented her salon; some of the most eminent corresponded with her for years.

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